



MEDIA RELEASE

Fatal Traffic Collision on Las Positas Rd.

SANTA BARBARA, CA – January 19, 2012

On 01/19/2012, at 0615 hours, Santa Barbara Police Officers and the Santa Barbara City Fire Department responded to an injury traffic collision in the 1200 block of Las Positas Rd. which is located approximately half way between the Eiling's Park entrance and Cliff Dr.

A citizen driving south bound on Las Positas Rd. called 911 when she noticed the tail lights of a pick-up truck which had smoke emitting from it. The vehicle had crashed off the roadway and down an embankment on the west side of the roadway.

When emergency personnel arrived, they were able to determine that the driver of the truck was dead on the scene. Emergency crews searched the area for additional victims with night vision and thermal imaging equipment, but were not able to locate any further victims.

Las Positas Rd. was closed to traffic from Veronica Springs Rd. to Cliff Dr. as the Santa Barbara Police Department Collision Reconstruction Team investigated the fatal collision. The investigation has thus far revealed that the Driver, Audelio Bautista Lopez (29 years old), was driving his 2004 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck south bound on Las Positas Rd while on his way to work at the "Boathouse" restaurant. For an unknown reason, the vehicle drifted off the road way and collided with a palm tree causing major damage to the front end of the truck and killing Lopez. The cause of the collision is still under investigation. Lopez is an Isla Vista resident and is survived by a wife and two small children.

Anyone with any information regarding this collision is asked to call Traffic Investigator Officer Mark Hunt at 897-3719

Contact: Sgt. Mike McGrew
Phone: (805) 897-3720
Email: mmcgrew@sbpd.com

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